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MEMORANDUM

To: C. Stephen Allred
                Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals Management

From: Secretary

Subject: Response to the Office of the Inspector General Investigations of Minerals Management Service (MMS) Employees

As I expressed to you yesterday, I am outraged, and I know you share that outrage, by the immoral behavior, illegal activities, and appalling misconduct of several former and current employees in the MMS Royalty in Kind (RIK) program, as detailed in the Inspector General reports I received yesterday. These individuals have eroded the trust the American citizens deserve to have in their public servants.

During this investigation, individuals were transferred out of the RIK program pending the receipt of this final report. Now that we have received this report and have the information to proceed further, we will take swift action to restore the public trust. Working with Department of the Interior (DOI) legal counsel, the MMS today will begin taking appropriate disciplinary actions.

In the memorandum conveying the report, the Inspector General affirmed my frustration with the length of time it has taken to receive this investigative report. I know you expressed to the Inspector General in writing, 18 months ago, your desire also to take action. The Inspector General has acknowledged the assertive steps we took to replace the key leadership and staff in the affected components of MMS. I received today the memo from the MMS Director detailing those steps and the proposed further corrective actions. I concur with these proposed actions and expect immediate implementation.

The Inspector General reiterated his belief that "99.9 percent of DOI employees are hard-working, ethical and well-intentioned." I share that view. Unfortunately, as he pointed out, the conduct of a few has cast a shadow on an entire bureau. We must and we will eliminate any remaining negative elements in the MMS.

cc: Randall Luthi
        Director, Minerals Management Service